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# A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 1.

BOSTON, MASS., DEC. 15, 1897.

NO. 6.

**A FEW HENS** IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY, and devoted to every branch of MARKET POULTRY CULTURE. Its field is in the suburbs of cities, large towns, villages, and on the farms of all America. It contains

## Brief Hints for Busy People.

Those who have not time to read and experiment upon theories, but who want to get helpful, practical suggestions, which may be put into practice daily.

A FEW HENS is a "boiled down" journal. It is not padded—saying, in as few words as possible, what is necessary—giving the cream and not the skim-milk of practical poultry information.

## MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

**MICHAEL K. BOYER**, Hammonton, N. J.  
To whom all exchanges and communications for publication should be addressed.

The editor is actively engaged in making poultry experiments, and in this journal alone, he will publish from time to time the result of his work.

Subscriptions, advertisements, and all business matters must be sent to publication office at Boston.

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

## EDITORIAL HINTS.

Poor turkey!

Good bye, 1897!

Merry Christmas!

Close up the accounts.

Are those pullets laying?

Beware of top ventilators.

Take an account of stock.

Lookout for frozen combs.

"Thank you; same to you!"

Heavy-laying strains wanted.

Don't spit in the poultry yard.

What improvements have you made?

Eggs are eggs—are you getting any?

Has '97 been a prosperous poultry year?

And now it is turkey's time to get roasted.

Resolve next year to be a better poultryman.

Goodness, how the subscriptions are rolling in.

Take the chill off the water these cold mornings.

Fowls are better indoors than out during bad weather.

What a blessing the scratching shed is this kind of weather.

Are your fowls suffering from the cold while you sit by the fire?

What are you going to have for Xmas dinner? Turkey, goose, duck or chicken?

Does the manure freeze fast to the dropping boards? If so, the house is too cold.

## Experimental Farm Notes.

*A General Review of the Year's Work—Getting the Facilities Ready for That Living from Two Acres.*

By the time this issue of A FEW HENS reaches its readers, it will be about one year since the experimental farm started. But as at this writing (November 15) we are unable to give full

laid as follows: 2, 1, 0, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 1. Total, 16 eggs.

From November 1st to 3d: 1, 1. Total, 2 eggs.

The record for the season, for the four old ducks, is as follows: March, 81 eggs; April, 109; May, 108; June, 102; July, 86; August, none—moulting; September, 39; October, 37; November, 2. Total, 564 eggs. This gave the four ducks a record of 141 eggs each. Now there is no telling how many eggs those ducks laid be-



Office and Dwelling of the Editor of A FEW HENS,  
HAMMONTON, N. J.

returns for the year, we must leave November and December reports for later issues. December 21, 1896, we moved on the present place. The original intention was to make experiments for the benefit of *Farm-Poultry* readers, but the idea of issuing A FEW HENS being conceived, the work was transferred to the benefit of the latter publication.

The old ducks have added to their record. From October 13th to the end of the month, they

fore we bought them of Chas. F. Newman, Staten Island, after the laying season had started. Mr. Newman wrote us that the ducks were laying at the time of the shipment.

The oldest of the young ducks, at about five months of age, began laying on the 6th of October, and stopped on the 27th of the same month, giving us 23 eggs. There were eight ducks in that pen.



We have completed our breeding pens for next season. Aside from the original pen of four Newman ducks and one Hallock drake, we have three pens of six fine Pekin ducks each, recently purchased from A. J. Hallock, mated to three of the finest drakes we raised; one pen of six Aylesbury ducks mated to a Pekin drake; and three pens of six each of the oldest of the young ducks we raised. This gives us 48 ducks and eight drakes for next season's operations. We may add another yard, as we have a sufficient number left, but we are in doubt about the advisability of so doing, as the ducks are not up to the size and age that we prefer. These eighteen remaining ducks and drakes, in all probability, will go to market.

\* \* \*

Our plan of mating is different from that of any we have yet seen or heard of. Instead of running twenty or more in a flock, we have divided them up into small families—putting six ducks and a drake in each of our 4 x 4 feet houses, to which is attached a run 7 x 50 feet. We believe that by so doing we can have a better egg record and there will be better fertility.

\* \* \*

In Light Brahmas we have two flocks of fine pullets, of twelve each, mated to two of our best cockerels. The one cockerel is the chunky fellow mentioned in our report in November issue, and the other cockerel is a pick of ten cockerels on hand. The old hens will be mated to a yearling cockerel we have just purchased.

In White Wyandottes we have a pen of eleven females and one cockerel.

In Single Comb White Leghorns we have thirty promising pullets and two fine cockerels.

We also have a dozen of the mongrel hens left over, which we purchased last spring for setters. To these we will mate a White Leghorn cockerel, and use the eggs later on for broilers.

\* \* \*

Inquiries reaching us almost daily for further description of our 4 x 4 feet houses, we concluded to illustrate them, which we do in this issue. The floor space is 4 x 4; the roof a double pitch; the sides under the roof three feet high. A half window is in the end, facing the south, covered with inch wire netting. The door opens on the east side. Over the window we have an "awning" eighteen inches wide, solid board, and the width of the building. This prevents rain or snow dashing in. These buildings are painted red. There are ten of them, built purposely for a breeding pen of ducks, yet we have found them of considerable use for growing stock. With roosts in them, they would make good houses for a small pen of fowls—say four females and one male.

The lumber for one of these buildings cost us about \$2.00; Neponset paper, about 70 cents; nails, lock, hasps, staples, hinges, hooks, and inch wire for the window, about \$1.00; paint, 25 cents; posts for yard, 80 cents; wire (2-inch mesh) for 50 foot yard, \$2.20; half-inch wire netting for floor of house, 64 cents; labor in putting up building and fencing, \$3.00. Total, about \$10.59.

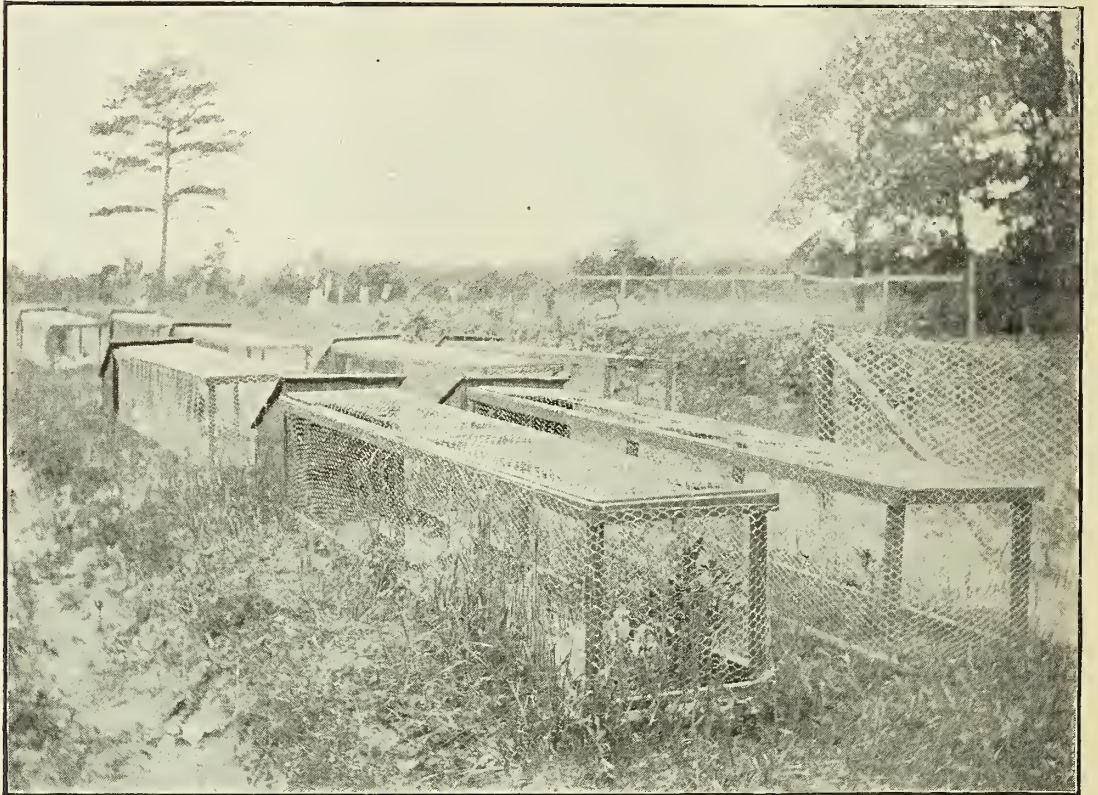
Originally we put board floors in these houses, but after we had several built we saw our mistake, and instead of boards have substituted half-inch wire cloth netting, which we fastened to the sills of the building and pressed down on the earth. Then on top of this wire we put a foot of loose earth. In the houses with board floors we were compelled to add fresh bedding for the ducks daily; while twice a week is sufficient with an earth floor.

It might be of value to know something about the water vessels we use. For young chicks we have the quart and half gallon Hood earthenware fountains; for young ducks, and hens, we find the Hallock water holder an excellent device. But for ducks after they are four or five weeks old—and also for the breeding ducks—we use wooden troughs eight feet long, made in V shape. We fill these three times a day with fresh water. As ducks, when drinking, will dig their bills in dirt and then back to the water, and so on, they carry a lot of dirt in the troughs. So before we give fresh water, we clean out this dirt with a hoe, such as is used for garden purposes. Each night, summer and winter, we empty every drinking vessel on the place.

making it impossible for rats, hawks, cats, or other enemies getting to the chicks. These houses and runs, complete, including labor, cost us five dollars each.

\* \* \*

Our nine Brahma hens did well enough for us the past 12 months. We purchased them of I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass., a month or so before we moved to this farm. During November, 1896, they laid 49 eggs; December 21 (moving them gave a set-back, from which they barely recovered before February); January, 1897, 22; February, 68; March, 153; April, 95; May, 122; June, 55; July, 52; August, 33; September, 48; October, 16; total, 734 eggs. That was but a fraction over 81 eggs each, but there are a number of things to be considered. First, the travel-



### Coop and Covered Run for Hen and Her Young.

A FEW HENS EXPERIMENTAL POULTRY FARM, Hammonton, N. J.

No buildings on the farm have been more favorably commented upon by visitors than the little coops and runs, intended for a hen and her young, which we illustrate on this page.

The coops measure, floor space, 2 x 2 feet; front, 2 feet high; back, 1 foot; roof, slant, measuring 2 feet 6 inches square. The doors in the front are one foot square, and made of inch wire netting. The roof and sides are covered with Neponset paper, and painted.

We used five-eighth inch boards, and shingling lath for frame work. The floor, front, back, sides, and roof are complete by themselves, and fastened to each other by screws. This enables us to take them apart when not needed, and store them away. In that way they do not take up much room, and also give us a chance to more thoroughly clean and white-wash them on the inside.

The runs are 12 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 2 feet high. The frame work is made of shingling lath, and on this we have tacked inch wire netting. The top of the run is composed of two large doors, fastened by hinges, which gives us a chance to get in the runs any time we might want to. On the door nearest the house, we have about two feet of thin boards, to prevent the rain dashing in. By changing these runs about every week to new grass land, we have found them excellent for the hen and her young,

ing from Massachusetts to New Jersey; second, moving them to new houses on another place, one month later; third, five out of the nine females were late hatched pullets, that only began laying on the 18th of January, and then only gave six eggs for that month.

\* \* \*

As stated in a previous issue, in March we began purchasing common hens to set. In all we secured twenty-four, paying fifty cents each, or twelve dollars for the lot. Some of these hens set twice. We disposed of twelve of them during the summer, after through hatching, for which we realized six dollars.

## OYSTER SHELL

100 lbs. prepaid to R. R. stations in Conn., .85  
100 lbs. prepaid to R. R. stations in Mass., .95  
100 lbs. prepaid to R. R. stations in N. Y., \$1.00  
Liberal Discount for Quantities.

First one of each 25 to answer this ad. will receive as premium, Farm-Poultry one year.

C. R. RUSSELL, Waterbury, Conn.

## Poultry Supplies

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Fancy Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

FRED. G. ORR & CO.,

Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.



Almost as a rule, after the young were about two weeks old, the hens began laying, giving this result: May 10th to end of month, 130 eggs; June, 190; July, 146; August, 135; September, 176; October, 86; total, 863 eggs, which were worth \$17.26. This amount was clear gain, as the hens earned their feed as incubators and brooders. Not so bad for mongrels.

\*\*

We have not the room to go much into details, but we will briefly add, that the income from eggs (both hen and duck), yielded us the following: December, 42 cents; January, 44 cents; February, \$1.36; March, \$4.68; April, \$4.08; May, \$7.20; June, \$6.94; July, \$5.68; August, \$3.36; September, \$5.24; October, \$3.24. Total, \$42.22.

Poultry sales: May, \$23.10; June, \$2.35; July, \$45.68; August, \$2.50; September, \$30.64; October, \$46.72. Total, \$150.99. Grand total, \$193.21.

Cost of feed: December, \$1.03; January, \$1.29; February, \$3.83; March, \$2.26; April, \$2.58; May, \$3.19; June, \$4.96; July, \$13.24; August, \$5.95; September, \$18.08; October, \$22.98. Total \$79.39.

But the feed was not the only expense. We invested money in stock, houses, fixtures, labor in building, etc., as follows:

Houses, fencing, labor, and windmill,	\$586.25
Fixtures, fountains, tools, etc.,	37.38
Setting hens, ducks and breeding fowls,	115.35
Incidentals, postage, etc.,	2.15

Total, \$741.13

We have not yet added incubators and brooders, as we must first build houses for them, and which will come in next year's account.

The land on which this two-acre plant is being started, is right in the heart of the town of Ham-montou, and therefore cost more than we would have had to pay a mile or two farther out. We paid three hundred dollars for what a little farther out could have been purchased for one hundred dollars, or even less.

Counting \$300 for land, and \$741.13 investment, as mentioned before, we have a total investment of \$1,041.13, which amount, at 6 per cent., leaves \$52.05 interest for ten months. This interest must be added to the cost of feed, making a total expense of \$131.44, leaving a clear profit of \$61.77 for the ten months.

\*\*

The stock on hand, and valuation of same, consists of—

10 Light Brahma hens, at \$3,	\$30.00
1 Light Brahma cock,	3.00
10 Light Brahma cockerels, at \$2,	20.00
24 Light Brahma pullets, at \$2,	48.00
11 White Wyandotte pullets, at \$1,	11.00
1 White Wyandotte cockerel, at \$1,	1.00
30 S. C. W. Leghorn pullets, at \$1,	30.00
2 S. C. W. Leghorn cockerels, at \$1,	2.00
63 Pekin ducks, at \$2,	126.00
4 Pekin ducks, at \$1,	4.00
6 Aylesbury ducks, at \$2,	12.00
12 Common hens, at 50c.,	6.00

Total, \$293.00

The figures we have set on this stock on hand are, we think, fair, considering the practical value they will be to us as breeders.

Taking the account clean through, we are encouraged at this ten-month showing, and believe that we can make a good start another season towards securing that "living."

A recapitulation shows that after paying the feed and 6 per cent. interest on what we have invested, we have \$61.77 left for ten months' work. This interest is, practically, rent of buildings, etc. The investment of \$586.25 for houses, etc.; \$37.38 for fixtures, fountains, etc.; \$115.35 for stock—a total of \$738.98—will be of value to us year after year, and by charging 6 per cent. interest for this investment, we are, in a strict business sense, making a profit on the money we put in the concern.

## Eggs and Egg Farming.

*Egg Type—High-Scoring Hens Indifferent Layers—The Germ in the Egg.*

Eggs are staple.

Make the hens scratch!

Don't trust to luck for eggs.

Are your pullets "out of gear?"

The hens should be laying now.

The Brahma lays the largest dark-shelled egg. Double-yolked eggs are a warning of too liberal feeding.

Don't expect winter eggs from hens crowded in cold quarters.

The average price for market eggs in the east is two cents each.

Do you trade off your eggs at the village store? It is a poor policy.

Eggs, unlike other farm crops, are ready for market the moment they are laid.

James H. Seeley, in *Rural New Yorker*, says he has no use for patent egg foods. Neither have we.

Mrs. L. P. C., Brighton, N. Y., will find the eggs from yearling hens to hatch well, but those from pullets seldom produce the strong chicks desired.

F. W. Proctor, in *Rural New Yorker*, says: "Give me a hen of the Mediterranean breeds, not far in excess of four pounds, for best return in eggs."

The late Francis A. Mortimer once said: "I find that hens with short legs, chunky bodies, short necks and small heads, are, as a rule, indifferent layers."

If E. P. T., Saco, Maine, will keep his eggs in a dry, warm cellar, and turn them every other day, he will find they will remain in good hatching condition.

"Uniformity in the egg yield is really of greater importance than a large egg yield, because it means a better average price, quicker sales, and greater profits," very correctly says John H. Robinson, in *Farm-Poultry*.

**CALENDAR** for poultrymen. Fowls in colors. Very fine. By mail. Stamps or silver. Twenty cents. C. R. RUSSELL, Waterbury, Conn.

## Bone and Grit.

Granulated Bone, 100 pounds, \$1.75. Best Grit cheap. Write for samples and prices in quantities. JONAS CULLAR, East Lewiston, Ohio.

## FISH'S "SUPERIOR"

### WHITE LIMESTONE GRIT,

The Standard Poultry Grit of America. Annual consumption exceeds all other grits combined—100 lbs. 75 cents. Fish's "Superior" Cut Clover, specially cured and prepared for Poultrymen's use, 50 pound sacks, \$1.00.

FAIRACRES FARM, Joliet, Illinois.

## Largest Supply House in America



SEND FOR 1897 CATALOGUE—FREE.  
Reference—A FEW HENS.

W. L. C., Stephentown, N. Y., will find the eggs from Light Brahmas average in size to those of the Minorca, and the fowls when dressed have an attractive appearance. The Brahmas are among the best winter layers, and lead in hardiness.

"I would not, as a rule," once wrote the late Francis A. Mortimer, "pick out the bird scoring the highest by standard for the best layer, simply because such birds are too frequently bred for 'fancy points' and utility is lost sight of."

W. L. C., Stephentown, N. Y., says that in his section, eggs from Black Minorcas bring five cents per dozen more than those from Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, etc., but it is almost impossible to sell them for dressed poultry, owing to the color of skin and legs.

Wm. H. Child, Glenside, Pa., writes: "The Silver Wyandotte pullet I wrote as having commenced to lay Sept. 28th, has laid eighteen eggs to date (Oct. 18), thirteen without a break. The White Wyandotte pullets are at it also. I believe I will have eggs 'to burn' this winter."

How many days will a hen lay in succession? Some years ago, in *Farm-Poultry*, H. S. Babcock said he knew a Bolton Gray to lay 135 eggs in 135 days. I. K. Felch said 159, in as many days, was claimed for a pet White Leghorn in 1859. James Rankin said he once owned a Creeper hen that laid 200 eggs in succession.

"In a fertile egg," says the *New York Times*, "the vital germ may be attached to the side, appearing as a small round spot. In a fresh egg this germ is clear, and of a whitish color, but in an egg that is stale, or has been incubated for only a few hours, it has a number of fine red veins diverging in rays from the center, and these are the first indications of the awakening of life in the dormant egg."

Edwin Snelgrove, 130 Fulton St., N. Y. Prize Winning Blue Andalusians and Light Brahmas.

**CUT CLOVER** in sacks, \$1.50 for 100 pound sacks. I. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

## Madison Square Winners.

We have for sale at a low price, Exhibition and Breeding Barred and Wh. Rocks, Rose and S. C. B. Legh's, Bl. Langshans, (Robinson) Wh. Wyandottes, (Dustin) Bl. Minorcas, S. C. W. Legh's, Lt. Brahmas, Belgian Hares. W. W. KULP, POTTSTOWN, PA.

IF YOU WANT

## Good Buffs

in Leghorns and Ply. Rocks,

Write to BROOKDALE FARM, Lock Box D,

L. S. BACHE, Prop. BOUND BROOK, N. J.

Winners at New York, Reading, Pa., Plainfield, N. J.

**WHITE WYANDOTTES.** Great layers; Large size; Vigorous stock; Farm raised; Some of them are non setters; Winners at New York show last season. Cocks, Hens and Chicks for sale. W. H. SHUTE, Middletown, Conn.

## I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks,

and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.

Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

## EGGS ARE WANTED

by all poultry keepers. How to get them is told in our pamphlets, which we send free to all interested in poultry.

**FITCH FERTILIZER WORKS,**  
Bay City, Mich.

THIS PAPER will cost you only Twenty-five Cents for TWELVE MONTHS. Can you afford to do without it? We accept postage stamps in payment for it. Order at once, so as to get every issue.



# A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

**MICHAEL K. BOYER,**  
Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, monthly Three Cents.

By the year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

**I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,**  
PUBLISHERS.

## ADVERTISING RATE:

One half cent per agate line for each 1000 copies, as printed monthly. Therefore the rate may vary each issue, as the circulation is increased. This will make the price 5 cents per line for 10,000; and 10 cents a line for 20,000, etc.

About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

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## EDITORIAL.

The motto of A FEW HENS is "much in little." Are we living up to it? Surely we cannot get much more in our little space. We keep jamming and jamming until the forms almost bulge out. It is hard work this planing off, dovetailing, boiling down, but then so long as our readers are pleased, who cares for work?

That "much in little" motto can be modified to "much *for* little." Certainly we are giving a dollar's worth of facts—pure cream—for twenty-five cents. It must be good cream, too, judging from the way the quarters come flying in, and the paper is being praised.

But there is another way in which we are giving a "a big lot" for a "little sum." We are working that "much for little" racket in our advertising columns. Whoever heard of a half cent per line for 1,000 circulation? You cannot get it elsewhere. Why, goodness, if some of the papers worked on that basis they would not get more than seven cents for an inch space. But we are printing 30,000 copies of each issue—and to get in the next issue of the paper will cost you just fifteen cents a line. How many poultry papers are there with a 30,000 circulation? You can easily count them on the fingers of one of your hands.

Well, we have the circulation, and our readers know a good thing when they see it. They read the advertisements. They buy what they want and pay for it. If you don't believe it, give us a test advertisement.

A FEW HENS is filling another "long felt want." It is becoming an encyclopædia. A prominent poultry editor admitted to the writer that, "When I am in doubt, I consult A FEW HENS." Another poultry writer said: "Do you know that I can get subjects from A FEW HENS to beat the band." We didn't know it; but we are glad to hear that we are, after all, of some use in this world.

Well, while we are at it, suppose we overhaul our mail and see just what our friends do think of us:

Here is a letter from J. Edward Kent, of Indiana. Mr. Kent writes: "I think that A FEW HENS is a paper suited for such as myself, and a number of my friends, who care nothing about showing birds, but do believe in first-class stock in every respect for practical use only. I have taken a great many of the best poultry papers published, but have gained more pure satisfaction from A FEW HENS than from any one of the others."

That is what we are in the business for. "Satisfaction guaranteed—money back, if you say so!"

And here comes S. W. Smith, Connecticut, who declares that "A FEW HENS is just the paper I have been looking for." That's good; wonder if some more are not looking for just this very paper. Call the attention of your friends to this matter.

Ford Bros., New York, write: "We are more and more pleased with A FEW HENS as we receive each number." Our aim is to make each number better than the one before it.

"I am delighted with A FEW HENS," is the cheery way in which the Rev. W. E. Dean, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Astabula county, Ohio, expresses his satisfaction.

Deacon Gilbert, Massachusetts, in sending in his subscription says he thinks A FEW HENS is just right. "Better for those who are hen struck than the other papers. There is a lot to learn in the poultry business, and it fits in nicely with other work, providing you don't neglect the hens. If you do, your jig is up!" The moral then, is, subscribe for A FEW HENS, so the jig won't go up.

Fred Woodrow, the poet, author and traveller, and now one of the editors of *Age of Steel*, St. Louis, Mo., in a personal letter to the editor, writes as follows: I came across a paper the other day under the striking caption of "A FEW HENS, and I was assured of you still being alive and kicking. I like the condensed style of the paper very much. It reaches the sap in the sugar maple, without wasting time in making chips. It is pointed, pertinent and practical, and as full of meat as a new-laid egg. Congratulations, and best wishes for raising money as well as poultry." There is a volume in a few words in that testimonial.

A. S. Bucknam, Massachusetts, writes: "You certainly crowd 'much in little' in your paper. We are raising poultry and eggs to make an honest living, and not to chase poultry shows with, so what do we care who gets prizes, and who don't. Our hens have kept us from being hungry more times than once." An honest living is what we are all after; stick to it.

W. E. Van Norden, New Jersey, writes: "I am delighted with your little paper, and know it will be a grand success, for it fills a long-felt want with busy people. I subscribe for other poultry and farm papers, but all of them together cannot take the place of A FEW HENS." Busy people want short items. That's right, stick to A FEW HENS.

J. A. DeMar, Massachusetts, writes: "I am much interested in your little paper, and honestly think it contains more information for the practical man than some of the poultry papers that are ten times as large." That is a strong testimonial, but it must be so.

Dr. J. H. Casey, editor of *Poultry Culture*, Kansas City, Mo., is more emphatic than ever, as these words will testify: "I must say A FEW HENS is the most spicy, best condensed, boiled down and graphic poultry literature on the market." The same to you, doctor—and "may you live long and prosper."

W. I. Cranston, New York, says he has got more information out of A FEW HENS than all the poultry articles he has read up to date. A short but sweet ending of a chapter of good cheer. Are there any others? We are pleased to know if we are doing our part.

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Judge G. O. Brown says: "It is a question whether the standard weight of fowls is not too great with many breeds to produce the best utility results." That, coming as it does from one of the leading poultry judges of the day, is worth considering, but it may not be so interesting to the advocates of Standard-bred poultry

for practical purposes. To get a hen too fat makes her an indifferent layer; to get the hen up to the weight the Standard requires is bound to have her too fat.

"Notwithstanding the advocates of fat hens," says Judge Brown, "those who try the forcing methods necessary to keep the hens fat, will soon learn they make a mistake. Just as soon as mature fowls are forced, or allowed to partake of food in a degree that causes them to become fat, they become sluggish, inactive, and soon are indifferent layers. It is the active, energetic hens that are good, continuous layers. They are in good, healthy condition. The fat hen is not."

A FEW HENS could not ask for a better endorsement of its policy than what the learned judge gives above. If we want to have practical poultry, we must see that every condition is provided for. If the Standard calls for something that can be had without making inroads on the egg and meat problem, we say, abide by it. But if the Standard's demands cripples utility, then by all means ignore that Standard. A FEW HENS believes in *thoroughbreds*—pure blood, and the full capacity of the breed for practical purposes. Beyond that accept only what can be had without a sacrifice.

The poultry farmer must have healthy flocks. To closely in-breed, or to force to over-fat, is not, as Judge Brown says, the way to have hardy stock. Feed for what object is desired.

"Show condition and business capacity with a flock are quite different things," declares the judge, and yet there are poultry editors who contend that the Standard-bred fowls are the fowls for the farmer. The judge is right; the aforesaid poultry editors are radically wrong.

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There are practically four grades of poultry, to wit: Standard-bred, thoroughbred, half-breed, and common.

The Standard-bred are for exhibition only. The thoroughbred and the half-breed for practical purposes. The common for those who hold to fogysm that "a chicken is a chicken."

We can say very little concerning the Standard-bred, as it is peculiarly adapted for a purpose far remote from the object and motto of A FEW HENS. They grace our poultry shows, but they fail in their efforts on our poultry farms.

The thoroughbred is a bird as pure in blood as the exhibition fowl, but lacking the so-called "points" necessary to make them winners in the show room. In fact, the average thoroughbreds on the practical farm, might be disqualified by a learned poultry judge. The thoroughbred, if it is bred in the proper manner, will not only be a better layer and offer a more tempting carcass, but it will at the same time have a constitution that is worth boasting about, and which will well be worth paying attention to.

The half-breed or cross-bred, is the result of a union of two thoroughbreds of different families. For quick growing and plump carcasses, for heavy egg yields as pullets, and for rugged constitutions, a systematic cross takes the lead. For fanciers to class the half-breed as mongrels, is but to give an indirect slap at the thoroughbred fowl, since it requires, to make the cross, strictly thoroughbred parents. Personally, we do not want cross-bred fowls upon our farm if we can find thoroughbreds that will combine the good qualities of the half-breed. But we cannot always do that.

The common hen comes last. The question has arisen, "What makes the common or dung-hill fowl? It must have had thoroughbred relations." Very true; it could not have started from mere nothing. The common hen is the result of reckless, hap-hazard work. Take, for





"DUCK HOUSES" 4 x 4 feet each.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM OF A FEW HENS, HAMMONTON, N. J.

instance, the cross-breeds. The poultryman has use only for the females of the cross. Should he mate the cockerels of the cross to the pullets of the same family, and so on, he would gradually step into mongrelism. Or, should he mate the cross-bred cockerels to thoroughbred hens or pullets, he would be making the same fatal step. Each year the stock would grow worse. Again, allowing thoroughbreds of different breeds to mix up in a hap-hazard way, would soon show signs of deteriorating. But where one has a flock of these common hens that are good layers (and we very often do find common hens that are excellent layers), it would be a good policy to secure male birds of the heavy laying breeds, and gradually grade up the stock.

To briefly put it, keep within the thoroughbred line as closely as possible, and there will be better results and better satisfaction.

\*\*\*

Here comes a testimonial that we are proud of. No better judges of agricultural journalism can be found than the Frank B. White Co., Chicago, Ill. This is what they say in a personal letter:—

"Our attention has been brought to your neat little paper. We think that you are getting in as much life and energy in your publication as most of the big ones, and we see very clearly you are bound to make a great success of it."

Here is a testimonial that should be set in big type with a border around it:—

"You are no doubt embarrassed with appreciations of your little but very rich paper. I read it with great pleasure, because it is so compact, clear and nourishing in its information. I know of no paper, or other publication, devoted to a special subject, that compares with it in concise value. I wish you no end of success in return for your wit in starting and running A FEW HENS.—Thomas H. Bartlett, Architectural Dept., Mass. Institute Technology, Boston, Mass.

The editor of A FEW HENS has for years been calling the attention of our agricultural colleges to the necessity of providing special

courses of instruction in poultry culture. But it remained for the Rhode Island College (agricultural department) to take the initial step in that direction. It is proposed to commence a four week's course in January, 1898, at a college in Kingston, R. I.

A. A. Brigham, Ph.D., professor of agriculture, in a personal letter to the editor of A FEW HENS, says that in order to aid in systematising

the study of poultry culture, a poultry plant for educational purposes has been commenced on the farm of the Rhode Island College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts, at Kingston. It is proposed to make the teaching of poultry culture a regular feature of the agricultural instruction.

The college has a good force of instructors in the sciences and arts upon which poultry culture is based. Several expert poultry specialists have promised to lend their hearty aid as instructors in the course. During the course, the forenoons will be devoted to lectures and class-room work; the afternoons to laboratory work and to practice in the carpenter shop, incubator-room and brooder house, and to the management, care and feeding of the fowls; the evenings to study, to meetings for discussion, etc. The Saturdays will be devoted to inspection excursions of the class to different poultry farms in New England and New York. Special public lectures will occasionally be given.

This special course of study will include instruction in the following topics: Poultry plants, location, planning and establishment, drainage of the land; buildings, planning and drawing of plans, making specifications and estimates, location and arrangement, construction, ventilation and furnishing; fowls, their origin, kinds and breeds, principles of breeding, mating, special breeding of water fowl, turkeys, pigeons, etc.; incubation and rearing both natural and artificial; foods, feeding, care and management, production of eggs and flesh, caponizing, fattening, killing, dressing and marketing, diseases, business methods and management, scoring, records, accounts, etc.

The necessary expenses of the course to the pupils will be very moderate. The only tuition fees are in connection with the use of the carpenter shop, laboratories and incubator and brooder houses. For the course in each of these, one dollar will be charged each pupil. A few dollars will be required for the purchase of reference books, note books and class-room supplies. Board at the college dining hall is \$3.00 per week; lodging at from 50 cents to \$1.50 per week. A special fee of \$5.00 will be charged all pupils from outside the state of Rhode Island.



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Said :

"Our moulting season is shortened, and condition improved since they began feeding us

The **H-O** Co.'s  
Poultry Feed;

in fact, I have never been so proud of my family and self as now."

"And I've never felt so fine, nor seen my family mature so rapidly, nor laid so many eggs." That's what

The  
Hen  
Said.



THE **H-O** COMPANY,  
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### About Broilers and Roasters.

*The Hebrew Trade—Color of Legs a Prejudice—How to Kill and Dress Fowls—A Retail Business—The Carcass Desired.*

The Christmas trade next.

Let your shipments be gilt-edged.

Fresh air is an essential in broiler raising.

Don't raise bones and feathers alone; get meat on the carcass.

It is not yet too late to market your surplus stock as roasters.

Don't hold back your shipments until a week before the holidays.

Roasting fowls, ten to twelve pounds to the pair, are in demand.

One bad, poor or indifferent chicken in a lot often condemns an entire consignment.

Poulardes, in French, means a fat pullet or hen, and generally one that has undergone castration.

Young fowls allowed to range and care for themselves are apt to be tough at an early age.

The fad of marketing five week old chicks for imitation "quail on toast," seems to have died out.

It is said the Armours, in Kansas City, Mo., kill from 5,000 to 15,000 chickens per day, during fall and winter.

After dressing poultry, put them in ice water until the animal heat has left the body. Failure to do that is apt to turn the carcasses green.

Dr. G. M. Twitchell says the carcass in demand is a broad body, deep and full breast, legs well apart, legs and neck rather short than long.

The middle of July is pre-eminently the season for spring chickens, says the New York Tribune. The delicious broiler is then at the lowest price.

Fried chicken was the delight of old southern cooks of ante-bellum days, says the New York Tribune, and was served with the sweetest and lightest of pone bread.

A well-fattened six month old bird, raised artificially, and then confined, will have a large breast, and the sinews of the legs and wings have not been developed by violent exercise.

Never eat a chicken the day it is killed. The tenderest fresh-killed chicken will be tough as soon as the animal heat has left the body. But in about twelve hours, when the muscles relax, it is fit for food.

Black-legged fowls for roasting; white-legged ones for boiling, was an English opinion expressed forty years ago. The best roasting fowls we have today are the Langshans with black legs; the Brahmas, with yellow legs; and the Dorkings, with white legs.

C. H. S., Medford, N. J., will find that the Wyandotte makes a good small-sized roasting fowl, but a better broiler. The Plymouth Rock gives a somewhat heavier carcass than the Wyandotte, but commands no more, per pound, in the New York market.

"You say," writes Mrs. G. C. W., Milton-on-Hudson, N. Y., "Lookout for black pin feathers." Why? I have an old calico hen bristling with them. I intend cutting her head off after moulting." A carcass filled with black pin feathers makes a dirty looking bird, greatly hurting its sale in market.

The coming of the Hebrew new year has done much to stimulate the poultry trade. The day of atonement came on September 28, when all kinds of poultry were in demand for the Hebrew trade. It is said that it took about fifty carloads of live poultry to supply the demand in New York city alone.

In killing fowls for our own table, we loop a string to the fowls head, and then have someone stretch the cord a little so as to bring the neck full over the block. We hold the legs and tips of the wings with our left hand, and with a sharp hatchet in our right, quickly cut off the head. We hold the bird firmly until life is extinct.

Here is a method for dressing fowls that is recommended by some poultrymen: Dip the fowls in cold water, and let them drip. Then apply finely pulverized rosin to the feathers, using a dredging box for convenience. Then scald in the usual manner. The rosin sticks the feathers together so that the pinfeathers come out with the others, saving much trouble. Apply about half a teaspoonful of rosin to a fowl. Use the common crude article.

John W. Markley, Logansport, Ind., proprietor of the Godfrey Farm Poultry Yards, is doing a retail business. He is a subscriber to A FEW HENS, and sends us a sample of a circular which he encloses in each package of superior table poultry or eggs. On the circular we note: "These fowls have been raised with free range, and fed clean sound grain and milk, and warranted to be free from any distemper. Consumers will find our product vastly superior to the packed eggs or diseased and coop-fed poultry bought in the open market. Our eggs are gathered daily and guaranteed to be strictly fresh."

KING OF FOWLS. Am. Dominique Ck's, \$1.50 to \$2.50; no culls. W. D. McNaughton, Tompkins, Pa.

A FEW CHOICE S. C. WHITE LEGHORN cockerels at \$1.00 each; good, pure stock and beauties. WM. HAHMAN, Altoona, Pa.

TWO Dimes get one of these 25 cent books: "500 Ques. and Ans. on Poultry Raising"; "500 Q. and A. on Pigeons"; "500 Q. and A. on Flower Culture"; "500 Q. and A. on Dairying"; "Plans for Poultry Houses and Fixtures"; "A B C of Poultry Culture"; "Art of Poultry Breeding"; "Uncle Rastus' Comic Poultry Book." Any six books \$1.00. Enclose bill at our risk.

W. J. DARROW, Publisher, Chatham, N. Y.

500 MAMMOTH PEKIN DUCKS.

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100 W. HOLLAND TURKEYS, \$2.50 each; \$7.00 trio. Order now, this may not be seen again. Satisfaction guaranteed.

CUT CLOVER HAY ready for use, \$1.25 per 100.

NIAGARA FARM,

RANSOMVILLE (Niagara Co.) New York.

### Ducks and Ducklings.

*Pointers Taken from the Experience of James Rankin, Weber Bros., and Others—The Business Not on the Decline—Duckling and Roaster Combination.*

The duck has no crop.

Don't forget grit in the mash.

Hard grain is not the proper diet.

Better have the ducks a little hungry.

The food must not be too highly concentrated.

It costs about \$2.00 a year to keep a breeding duck.

Be careful not to overfeed or overheat the ducklings.

Sore eyes in ducks are often caused by filthy quarters.

We had roast duck Thanksgiving dinner—what had you?

Ducks can be kept with a profit up until four years of age.

From February to May the eggs are the strongest in fertility.

Most duck raisers mix the food for old and young with cold water.

We intend having roast duck for Xmas dinner. Better try some yourself.

Remember that cleanliness and disinfection are imperative in duck culture.

Weber Bros., Massachusetts, use pine sawdust in the pens and hovers for the ducklings.

Rankin estimates that it will cost at least \$1,000 to start a duck plant with 5,000 annual capacity.

When about four weeks of age, ducklings can safely be taken from the warm brooders and kept in unheated houses.

Clean away enough snow, the first thing in the morning, so that the ducks can have room to eat and drink.



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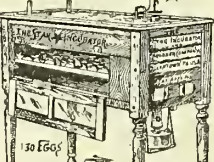
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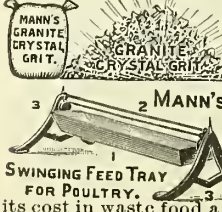


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**3 MANN'S SWINGING FEED TRAY FOR POULTRY.**

its cost in waste food alone. Hens cannot scratch food out of it, nor dirt into it, nor roost on it. We sell for cash or instalments,

## MANN'S GREEN BONE CUTTERS

and MANN'S Granite Crystal GRIT

Are two great egg makers. They prove the triumph of science over guesswork. Success is certain. Hens will lay twice as many eggs when fed on green bone and grit.

**MANN'S SWINGING FEED TRAY** for poultry will save

F.W. MANN CO., Milford, Mass.



Turn over the water and feed troughs at night, to save cleaning them out the next morning, should there be a snow storm during the night.

James Rankin says it is a fair day's work for an expert to dry pick forty ducks. He says he has had men who could pick seventy-five and do it well.

On the duck farm of Weber Bros., Wrentham, Mass., the young ducks for the first four weeks are fed five times a day. After that they are fed every six hours.

Bread or cracker crumbs, moistened with boiled milk, into which a little powdered chalk has been dusted, Rankin recommends as the proper diet for ducklings having diarrhoea.

"The deafening peeping made by 3,000 ducklings in a 130-foot brooder house, upon the approach of the feeder, can better be imagined than described," says Prof. Cushman, in *Country Gentleman*.

In feeding ducklings, go through the pens several times, and give an additional amount to all that do not seem satisfied. One hour after feeding make the rounds and gather up all feed that is left over.

"Though the prices for dressed birds the past season have ruled a trifle lower," writes Rankin, in the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, "which was the case with all kinds of poultry, the unusually low price of grain has more than made up the deficiency."

James Rankin, in the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, says: "The wonderful growth and increase of the duck business in this country during the past fifteen years, has been phenomenal, and though it has been multiplied many times over (and never more so than during the last season), yet the demand exceeds the supply."

James Rankin advises the combination of duck and roaster growing. Fill the brooding house with chicks in November and December, which they will have outgrown by February, when the buildings will be needed for the ducklings. Both the ducklings and roasters will then reach the market at the same time, and when the highest prices prevail.

### Pointers on Food and Feeding.

*Various Opinions on What We Feed and How We Feed It, Drawn from the Experiences of Practical Poultrymen.*

- Don't forget charcoal.
- V-shaped troughs are best.
- Don't feed frozen green stuff.
- Clover meal is becoming popular.
- Don't feed the mash hot—only warm.
- Never mix grit with soft feed for hens.
- Keep the drinking water where it is not apt to freeze.
- Before you feed horse meat, find out from what cause the horse died.
- Don't hang up pieces of meat in the hen house for fowls to help themselves.
- Always watch results of feeding, and govern yourself according to the condition of the droppings.
- Keep the litter in the scratching shed as free from filth as possible. To throw the grain among filth is apt to make sick fowls.
- Deacon Gilbert, Massachusetts, thinks that poultry writers do not make the value of skim-milk for hens and chicks emphatic enough.

By scalding the cut clover hay, A. L. S., Connecticut, will find that his fowls will get the full strength of the tea, and the clover itself will be more freely eaten.

Too much food of one kind, too long continued, allowing hens to go too long without food, and then feeding to liberally, says G. O. Brown, is the cause of indigestion.

Don't depend on the manure pile for the hens' living. To compel them to feed themselves from the waste grain found in the stable manure, is not the proper way to have finely-flavored eggs.

One handful of grain to two birds, says the *Poultry Messenger*, is considered by many breeders about the right quantity to feed. Unless a man has a "jumbo" hand, we should advise that he count but a handful for each bird in the pen. That is the rule we follow, and it seems to be about right.

Mrs. C. M. K., New York, writes that she very seldom feeds her hens any soft food. She finds that it makes them lay more during the winter, but in the spring, when she wants the eggs for hatching purposes, they are not as fertile, and the chicks not so hardy. We are inclined to believe that Mrs. K. is theorizing. We have always fed a mash in the morning—and so have hundreds of practical poultrymen we know of—and for fertility of eggs, and hardness of offspring, we have always been more than satisfied.

Lorenzo J. Dame, Washington, writes: "I obtain green bone scraps at the butcher's, and cook them until the meat is done. Then I strain off the liquor and run the bones through a Mann bone cutter. I then replace the liquor and thicken all with bran, and feed to the poultry. I also feed whole corn, but sparingly. I cut my lawn each week during the summer, and cured the clippings, which I stored away for winter, at which time I feed it by scalding and mixing with the above mash of bone and bran." We should suggest that as much cornmeal as bran be used in the mash—half and half, by weight.

I. W., Connecticut, writes: "My experience teaches me that a food which suits the American class does not suit the Mediterranean class of fowls. For instance, I can feed Brown Leghorns quite liberally on corn and get a large egg yield, but not so with the Cochins. They become overfat and lazy on that diet. The New York Poultry Station, at Geneva, in an experiment, showed that a pen of Cochins fed exclusively on dry whole grain thrown among litter, causing the hens to scratch for a living, produced more eggs than a pen of the same breed, raised from the same brood, did when fed on soft food in the morning, and whole grain at night." If the morning meal be a mash composed of a variety, and the fowls not given all they will eat, and grain scattered among litter both noon and night, we can secure a better egg yield with the same fowls than the New York Station showed in their report.


### White Plymouth Rocks, HANCOCK & CHILD, Salem, N. J.

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\$2 each. Felch-Thompson strain.

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G. E. CHALFANT, Hammonton, N. J.



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A Living From Poultry,	- 25 "
Broilers for Profit,	- 50 "
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A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	- 25 "
<b>Total,</b>	<b>\$1.75.</b>

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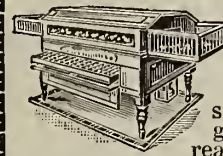
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when the instructions are followed as laid down. You will understand how it is possible for us to make such an unparalleled guarantee, when you read our Poultry Guide and Combined Incubator and Brooder Catalogue. A book that contains an immense amount of poultry lore, and of great value to every poultry fancier. Sent for 10c. **Reliable Incubator & Brooder Co., QUINCY, ILLINOIS.**



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Good breeders and show birds for sale at reasonable prices.

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Published twice a month. Price, one year one dollar. Sample copy free. We have arranged to club it with Mr. Boyer's new paper, *A Few Hens* (price 25 cents) both one year for only \$1.10.

Send orders either to **MICHAEL K. BOYER,** Hammonton, N. J., or the publishers below.  
**I. S. JOHNSON & COMPANY,** Boston, Mass.



## Notes in Passing.

*News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Choice Paragraphs from our Exchanges.*

James Rankin says he has never known of a case of gout in a man in the poultry business.

I. M. S., Greenwich, Conn., will find \$1.50 to \$2.00 per running foot a safe estimate to construct the scratching houses, complete.

L. P. C., Brighton, N. Y., will find sifted coal ashes very good for the floor of the roosting room. But do not use wood ashes.

Sunshine, protection from winds, snow and rains, and scratching exercise are stepping stones to successful poultry keeping, says the *Baltimore Sun*.

The fancier tells you that inbreeding is no sin in poultry culture. Yet at the same time, he wants to sell you *new blood*. "Consistency, thou art a jewel!"

The *Poultry Messenger* says: "Outside of the cities nearly every family keeps a few hens." Very true; but the "half has not been told." Nearly every family takes A FEW HENS.

D. V. B., Tiffin, Ohio, can arrange his house, 16x30 feet for six pens, by making each pen 5x13 feet. This allows room for a three foot entry running the length of the house.

If E. T. P., Saco, Maine, will mix the poultry droppings with plaster, or sifted coal ashes, and keep in a dry place, he will be able to retain the fertilizing value of the manure.

Deacon Gilbert, Massachusetts, writes A FEW HENS that he hatched 116 chicks from 148 fertile eggs, under hens, and raised 115 chicks. He also hatched on May 4th and 10th, 68 chicks, and marketed 67 of them for \$40.80. The 68th chick being a good rooster, he retained it for breeding.

F. D. P., Herkimer, N. Y., wants to know if putting a couple of mongrel hens in each pen of thoroughbreds will taint the offspring of the pure hens, by the cockerel attending to all. We have no faith whatever in that theory, and have time and again made the test without discovering the least sign of taint.

"I am building a 40-foot house very similar in design to the one described in your book *A Living from Poultry*, with scratching sheds," writes Mrs. L. P. Chapin, New York. "I feel that to follow the ideas contained in your books and A FEW HENS, means success, if faithfully carried out. The paper is especially useful. I wish you all success."

"I heard of two men who have failed in the poultry business," writes C. J., New York, "and would like to know if it is possible for an industrious man, of ordinary intelligence to succeed." If a man is industrious, is not easily discouraged, has pluck and grit, has capital to start and work on, and his "ordinary intelligence" is in the line of poultry work, he is bound to succeed.

J. L. Todd, a well-known Iowa poultryman, says: "There is money in the poultry business; this I know. Misfortune struck me some eight or nine years ago, and left me with nothing but my hands and a few thoroughbreds and a family to support. Yet we have lived, and lived decently, and carried on the poultry business, and saved during that time a comfortable home worth at least \$3,000."

C. V. S., Massachusetts, is about going into the poultry business with a partner. The partner furnishes the land, and will feed and care for the stock. Mr. S. will pay for the coops and yards, and attend to the marketing of the stock. How should the profits be divided? We think equally, as the investments are, seemingly, of equal value; and the labor of the one is as important as that of the other.

Mrs. C. T. K., Tuskegee, Ala., has crosses of Buff Cochins, Wyandottes and Leghorns mated to pure bred Brahma cocks. She is having good success with them, and wants to know if it is advisable to sell the hens and buy pure bred fowls. That depends upon circumstances. If they are meeting the object desired, it might be best to let well enough alone. But we should prefer gradually getting into thoroughbreds, and at the same time gradually getting out of the mixture.

F. B., Waterbury, Conn., would like pointers on storing away cabbage for the hens during winter. One method is to gather them before

the severe frosts in fall. Let the coarse, outside, leaves remain. Attach a strong string around the stalk, and suspend the cabbage head downward, from the ceiling timbers in a dry cellar. This is almost a certain method. It being too late now for that, the next best method is to pack the heads closely in a cask, filling up the vacancies completely with dry chaff or bran, and keep in a dry cellar. Some farmers bury the heads in the ground.

A. S. B., Ayers Village, Mass., sends A FEW HENS this description of his new chick coops: "Last spring I built a few new chick coops that suited me very well. They are of half-inch stuff, 18x24 inches in size; 12 inches high in back; 21 inches in front, with cleated roof. The front is of lath two or two and a half inches apart. The middle lath can be taken out as wanted. The flap to cover the front is cleated and hung to the roof with leather hinges. It lays back on the roof when open. The roof is hooked on with a hasp on each side. There is a floor in the coop. The bottom frame is 1 1/2x2 inch scantling."

## People We Know.

*Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS, About People We Know.*

Rackham's Poultry Directory will soon appear, published by Robert Chamberlin, Orange, N. J.

Richard H. Young, Lilac Hedge, Westboro, Mass., is possibly the oldest dealer in wire netting in the country.

Fred G. Orr & Co., Boston, Mass., is an old and reliable firm, dealing in poultry supplies. See their advertisement.

F. W. Proctor has been added to the editorial staff of the *Fanciers' Review*. An excellent move on the part of both.

D. J. Lambert, Apponaug, R. I., is out with the prospectus of "Pocket Book Pointers, for Practical Poultry Keepers, for 1898."

Fish's superior white limestone grit, advertised in A FEW HENS, is rapidly growing into popularity. It is sold at only 75 cents per 100 pounds.

The Banner Egg Food and Tonic, manufactured and sold by the Excelsior Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey street, New York city, is meeting with heavy sales.

A. J. Hallock, Speonk, L. I., has disposed of all his surplus ducks excepting about 40 ducks and 90 drakes. Most of the latter will weigh from 10 to 12 pounds each.

The *American Fancier*, Johnstown, N. Y., devoted its entire issue of November 3d to the Black Minorca breed. Those interested in that variety had better send five cents to the *Fancier* for a copy.

"We are getting quite a number of replies from our advertisement in A FEW HENS," write the Fitch Fertilizer Works, Bay City, Mich. A FEW HENS readers will find their goods strictly first-class. Drop them a line for circulars.

The *Reliable Poultry Journal*, Quincy, Ill., has just issued a catalogue of poultry cuts that are worth looking at. They are up-to-date illustrations by that prince of artists, Sewell. Poultrymen needing anything in that line should address the *Journal*.

We have just received an interesting manual on clover meal, showing its value in poultry feeding. It is published and will be sent free, by The Bennett & Millett Co., Gouverneur, N. Y. Those interested in winter eggs should write to the above firm for a copy.

P. A. Webster's new machine, the New Premier Green Bone Cutter, is a big hit. The manufacturer has put in ball bearings so that all the pressure strikes on the balls, thereby doing away with all friction, and saving 50 percent of the power. Mr. Webster will send full particulars to those writing him.

The H-O Company, New York city, are sending out samples of their scratching feed, to poultrymen. This feed is composed of all the best grains and peas, browned. There is such a variety in the mixture that fowls not only relish the food, but it is of untold value in egg production. See their advertisement elsewhere in this issue.

A FEW HENS not being a fanciers' journal, it has arranged a clubbing offer with that old and valuable magazine, the *Poultry Monthly*,

by which it can send both papers for one dollar. In other words, send us one dollar for the *Poultry Monthly* one year, and we will throw a year's subscription to A FEW HENS in the bargain.

Through the courtesy of Geo. S. Smith, of the Pike Manufacturing Co., Pike Station, N. H., the editorial desk of A FEW HENS is ornamented with a desk stone which can be used both as a knife sharpener and a paper weight. Any of our readers desiring the best scythe stones, oil stones, razor hones, etc., should write the Pike Company, as above, for catalogue.

Here is another plume for the Experimental Farm of A FEW HENS. Geo. S. Smith, Pike Station, N. H., bought one of those Light Brahma cockerels we advertised in this paper last month, and this is his verdict: "I received the cockerel yesterday, and am well pleased with him. He is well worth what I paid for him, and I shall watch his development the next few months with great interest."

C. R. Russell, Waterbury, Conn., is advertising oyster shells in A FEW HENS. The advertisement began with the November number. The issue had hardly been circulated when a local subscriber to A FEW HENS called upon Mr. Russell to claim a reward. The offer made in the advertisement is: "The first one of each twenty-five to answer this advertisement will receive as a premium, *Farm-Poultry* one year." We advise our readers to look up the advertisement in this issue.

In reply to several inquiries regarding the contest advertised by the Poultry and Farm Supply Co., Boston, Mass., would say that we have made investigations regarding them, and can assure our readers that the firm is not only reliable, but will positively do as they claim. They have not picked out the winners, as one correspondent hinted, but will—we have every reason to believe—do just what they say. We want to see readers of A FEW HENS win in these contests.

We have just received the fourth edition, revised and enlarged, of "Natural and Artificial Duck Culture," by James Rankin, South Easton, Mass. The book contains 108 pages and is finely illustrated. There is no better authority in the country on duck culture, and this book is written entirely from Mr. Rankin's vast experience. Those interested in duck farming can secure the work for 25 cents, by addressing the author, as above. The popularity of the Pekin duck in America, and the possibilities of profitable duck culture, are almost entirely due to the experiments and work of James Rankin, and he fully deserves the title of "duck king."

W. R. Curtiss & Co., Hansenville, N. Y., proprietors of the Niagara Farm, begin a contract in this issue of A FEW HENS. This firm raised 5,000 ducks and 2,000 chicks this year, and expect to almost double their capacity another season. Niagara Farm was started with four hens and one cock of the Wyandotte breed; today it is the largest poultry plant in western New York. Twenty Prairie State incubators are used. Visitors are always welcome, excepting on Sunday. The buildings comprise 10,000 square feet, floor space, wintering 500 breeding ducks, 500 hens, 25 turkeys, and 25 geese. The farm comprises 60 acres of land. A FEW HENS takes pleasure in recommending W. R. Curtiss & Co., to its readers.

F. W. Mann & Co., Milford, Mass., have placed a new bone cutter on the market, which will be known as the No. 4-B-M. The improvements consist of a larger cylinder than No. 3-B-M., which will take a large size bone; a feed screw, which has been made larger with coarser thread, so it is impossible to crush down, wear out or bend; the cutter plate, which contains six knives instead of three, a special pattern designed for passing through the bone easily; the follower and feed handle, which embrace the new attachment, so arranged that it actually governs the power required. In cutting bones there comes a time when the strain increases, and the operator has to work hard. Whenever this occurs with this machine, the spring gives way, and allows the feed handle to make a partial revolution, sufficient to release the strain, when the spring arrests the feed handle and compels it to feed again. Should the resistance occur, the spring gives again, and so on continually. The construction of the knives is such that it entirely prevents large slivers or shavings occurring in the product. The cutter plate has also a guard on it to prevent the bone or meat getting into the gears.